

COMMITTEE OF 100 NATION-WIDE DEMONSTRATION DECEMBER 9th.

This coming Saturday the Committee of 100 hopes to have the biggest direct action anti-nuclear protest yet. In <sup>its</sup> statement the Committee says that it needs 50,000 to 'block and immobilise Ruislip, Middlesex, United States Air Force Headquarters in Britain' and 'Brize Norton, Oxford, Strategic Bomber Base.' It also plans to hold 'mass civil disobedience demonstrations in Cardiff, Bristol, Yorkshire and Manchester!'

This will represent the biggest challenge to state power in Britain for many decades and as such is bound to provoke the authorities to repressive action. Already, the police have visited the Committee of 100's printers and taken statements from the office and works managers, warning them that such statements could be used in evidence. The police also questioned individual members of the Committee of 100.

On the other hand the Committee reports a very good response to its appeal pledges to take part and pledges not to co-operate with the police by refusing to give one's name, paying bail etc. Arrangements have been made from numerous centres for bus loads of people to go direct to the demonstrations.

The tremendous response to the Committee of 100's activities shows what potential there is any political tendency which has something vigorous, decisive and dynamic to offer in dealing with the important questions of the day. We can, of course, see many negative features in this phenomenon, the most clear of which is that of people turning their backs on political action and especially that through the labour movement. However, we must admit that whilst we have nothing better to offer we cannot complain. We must moreover go through the experience with all these people before we can point out the limitations of this kind of activity effectively.

On the positive side, and we might add, overwhelmingly so, lots of people are going to learn lots of lessons about the role of the state, Parliamentary democracy etc. They can learn a hell of a lot more if we are there with them.

P.J. 2/12/61

TRADE UNION SUB-COMMITTEE OF C.N.D. FORMED IN NEWCASTLE

At a meeting November 24th at Newcastle a sub-committee for trade union activities was established. The immediate programme is to get support for a joint C.N.D.- Committee of 100 campaign to protest at the launching of a missile ship at Wallsend on Tyne. A poster parade was planned for Saturday 2nd December, a public demonstration in Wallsend Market Place on Wednesday 6th December and a silent vigil at the dockyard gates on Thursday 7th December. Thousands of leaflets are to be distributed and a big conference is planned for trade union branches etc. in February.

NOTTINGHAM C.N.D. MARCH

Over 150 took part in a march organised by the Nottingham C.N.D. on Saturday 2nd December. The march after going through the shopping centres ended in a meeting in the Market Place, where despite the inclement weather a good crowd listened. The C.N.D. is to hold a public meeting on Tuesday 12th December at the Co-op Education Centre, the subject being the Young Fabian pamphlet "Nato or Neutralism." The C.N.D. is continuing with its meetings every Sunday evening in the Old Market Square.

MOTORCADE TO DEMAND RELEASE OF GEORGE CLARK

The Twickenham Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is to organise a demonstration of motor cars and scooters on Saturday 2nd. December to demand the release of George Clark, the imprisoned Committee of 100 leader. George Clark is at present serving a nine month prison sentence for inciting people to sit-down in demonstrations which took place outside the Soviet and American embassies, shortly after the Russians resumed nuclear testing. He had already served a two month sentence for refusing to be bound over. The demonstration will also publicise the December 9th demonstrations.

## A NOTE ON THE JOURNAL "INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM"

The short article was written especially for the Bulletin by a member of the Editorial Board of the above journal. Whilst not seeking to indulge in inter-factional warfare it is necessary for us to appraise, in a strictly political manner, all the tendencies with whom we have to co-exist in the labour movement. We shall in future issues of the Bulletin publish material on other tendencies and journals. (editor)

"This note can only be an extremely abbreviated one because of space considerations, it therefore confines itself to a general characterisation of the journal; thus the articles mentioned are not answered in detail.

"International Socialism" was launched in cyclostyled form in 1958, with articles on the British economy and the general structure of the soviet economy. The object of the journal was to discuss problems of marxism. The development of the journal, associated as it is with the Socialist Review group, reflects the activity of that tendency which regards the Soviet state not as a workers state, transitional to socialism, but as a new social formation, called State Capitalism. Without any doubt both the journal and group have flourished on the failure of a viable Fourth International section to evolve. The irresponsible breakaway group, the Socialist Labour League, has, by its vicious sectarianism, further strengthened the State Capitalist grouping.

Well produced and frequently well written the journal now has on its editorial board three members who accept the need for a world party - the Fourth International. Whatever our disagreements with the interpretations cast upon events by the journal, in the short run at least, the very raising of fundamental problems has its value and brings marxism, in however odd a form, to a wider public. Future articles which may serve the FI are replies to the editorial on the Common Market and an analysis of the Russo-Chinese controversy from an FI standpoint. Where possible comrades use the journals book reviews as a further means of extending knowledge of the FI.

The characteristic views - anti Trotskyite ones - of the State Capitalist tendency can be seen from a random choice of articles. The 1960 Autumn issue contained, for example, an article which implied that the revolutionary party on Bolshevik lines is inevitably a 'substituto' for the autonomous activity of the masses. This view is usually associated with an ambiguous attitude towards Rosa Luxemburg's views on spontaneity.

On the question of the Russo-Chinese conflict, the fact that the Chinese Stalinist leadership repudiates sharply the revisionist rush of the Khrushchevites is to them of no consequence, "they are both utterly alien to international socialism" - yet again, they cannot see the pulsating power of the Asiatic Revolution, distorted as it is through the bureaucratic apparatus. From this standpoint popular revolutions would seem not to announce the road to socialism but the inauguration of a new state capitalist era! Hence this group cannot take advantage of the split and reveals the sterility of their approach.

On the Cuban Revolution, "International Socialism" is similarly confused. Apparently Cuba has passed "beyond private property" but it is denied that there is an "effective industrial working class." The orientation of Cuba to the Soviet Union is not seen dialectically but as strengthening the bureaucratic tendency only. (The quotations in this and the previous para are both from the Winter 1960-61 issue)

On the question of CND there has been a tendency to accept CND pacifism and ignore completely any difference in the roles of the USA and the USSR.

Perhaps the most significant ambiguity has been that over the Common Market. After quite rightly exposing the retrograde defence of the Commonwealth a la Tribune, the final conclusion reads, "For us the move to Europe extends the scope of class struggle in which we are directly involved; it worsens its conditions for the present. But it makes ultimate victory more secure." (Autumn 1961). We may agree, of course, that socialism is brought about by tendencies within capitalism, but it does not follow that therefore we welcome a move which can only strengthen capitalism in Europe at the present time - at a time when politically the strengthening of NATO means strengthening those forces constantly bringing the world to the edge of the third world war. Neither tactically would the workers appreciate it if told in due course when the effects begins to make themselves felt, that "critical support" was given to the Common Market because eventually it spelled the downfall of capitalism, sometime in the future. Clearly socialists must say no to the Common Market, although certainly this involves us in difficult explanations of a complex situation. But the wobbling of "International Socialism" helps no one and fails to see sinister elements in the situation.

In conclusion, "International Socialism" can influence valuable comrades and its role in the present period should not be ignored. Its basic ideas should be combatted, but its positive uses should not be underrated.

## THE 'FREITAG AFFAIR'

Comrades may have seen the 'Newsletter' of 25/11/61 which carried a somewhat hysterical article by Gerry Healey, entitled 'Ulbricht prepares a frame-up'. From the article it emerged that one Otto Freitag, who 'For seven years...attended meetings of the International Committee but did little or no work in Germany', had turned up in East Berlin, given a press conference denouncing West European Trotskyists as working with West secret police organisations and claiming that he was a leader of the Fourth International.

Just how much credence can be given to this kind of thing is adequately demonstrated when one remembers the case of Otto John, who shuttled back and forth over the East/West border alternately denouncing the activities of East and West. That at this stage Ulbricht should come forward with this kind of thing indicates that he is troubled with an internal opposition. But these methods long to a period which is now finishing and no one can treat these claims seriously in any form whatsoever. However, it has been suggested, this affair is tied up with the disappearance of the left-wing leader of the German Metal Workers' Union, Heinz Brandt, who is an old member of the German C.P. who went into opposition to Ulbricht after the 1953 East German uprising. After leaving East Germany in 1957, he became one of the leading left wing trade unionists in the West. Should a show trial be attempted it would be necessary to wage a campaign of protest. We produce here a statement by the International Secretariat of the Fourth International on this affair:

"L'Humanite, on the 13th of November, reporting on a press conference in East Berlin, writes "One Otto Freitag, who has been two days in the German Democratic Republic, had a meeting with journalists. He said that he had been a member of the Executive Committee of the Fourth International Trotskyist organisation, of which he had been the leader of the German section. Freitag gave evidence how Gohlon agents had tried to make use of the Trotskyist organisation. Freitag admitted having helped them". The I.S. categorically denies that XX see below

The International Secretariat denounces the belated stalinist, Ulbricht, who at the moment of Stalin's ejection from the mausoleum in the Red Square, is using the methods of provocation, calumny and repression used by Stalin twenty years ago against opposition communists.

The International Secretariat likewise denounces, the publication of a similar provocation in l'Humanite, organ of the Communist Party of France, which is also one of the last refuges of belated stalinism and proposes in its place, the attitude taken by the "New Generation", organ of the Italian Young Communist League....." XX Otto Freitag was over a member of the E.C. of the Fourth International.....

### A DEBATE ON TROTSKY'S IDEAS IN THE ITALIAN WORKERS' MOVEMENT

The following is a translation from an article in "La Verite des Travailleurs" (Nov. issue), organ of the French section of the Fourth International.

"The organ of the Young Communist League of Italy, Nuova Generazione, published an article on November 11th, 1961, in which it opens a discussion on the role of Trotsky in the Russian Revolution. This issue includes a photograph in which Trotsky appears side by side with Lenin, with a statement that he was 'one of the most remarkable personalities of the October Revolution, discussion of whose ideas is now being reopened. Among other things, he wrote one of the most interesting histories of the Revolution and the finest pages ever written about Lenin. The issue demanded a critique of all the history of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and a new examination of the role of Trotsky. In two articles the theories of Trotsky were discussed in very sound terms.

We are certain that the initiative of Nuova Generazione will not remain on its own."

### ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY STATEMENT ON 22nd CONGRESS

A statement appearing in l'Unita, paper of the Italian Communist Party, on November 28th, contained many interesting features. Reflecting the turmoil in the ranks of the Communist Party it says, among other things, "that the question of the grave violations of socialist democracy in the Soviet Union is vastly more complicated than just denouncing Stalin's negative policies and his errors. It is necessary to analyse the conditions under which the first socialist society was established. Perhaps of greatest significance is the statement that under present conditions, with the widespread development of Communism and the vastly different conditions under which Parties work, there cannot be a leading party. This line, that of so-called poly-centrism, has brought the Italian Communist Party into public conflict with the French C.P.. The latter claiming that this is in contradiction to the need for the unity of international communism. The Italian C.P. has also spoken of the need for closer relations with the Yugo-Slav League of Communists.

We include the following article, which is based upon a report in the latest issue of Quatrieme Internationale, French language theoretical journal of the Fourth International, despite the time lag because of its importance. It is of importance in assessing the position of the leadership of the Cuban Revolution and its likely evolution. Guevara is in charge of economic affairs in Cuba and, as such, is virtually No. 2 in the revolutionary leadership.

On Sunday, 13th August, a delegation of Uruguayan comrades had an interview with Guevara, at Punta del Este, representing Trotskyists the world over and those of Latin America in particular. The Uruguayan Communist Party had led a campaign of insults and calumnies against the Trotskyists in its journal "el Popular" for one week prior to the interview with the intention of preventing it. On the day of the interview itself it published a furious anti-Trotskyist editorial.

Guevara wanted very much to have the interview and it took place, despite the sabotage of the leadership of the Uruguayan C.P. and the Cuban C.P., both of which were present at Punta del Este. Ten members of these parties spied on and controlled the movements of Guevara. The Trotskyists were very keen to discuss with Guevara the real problems and future of the Cuban Revolution as well as the situation of the Cuban Trotskyists after the suppression of their publications.

Our comrades, in saying what they thought about the perspectives of the Cuban Revolution, said that the imperialists are organising a new intervention and that one could not rely upon the Latin American bourgeoisie, which only wanted to profit from the Cuban Revolution by improving its bargaining position with imperialism, the solution is in the development of the Latin American Revolution. They said it was necessary to have political and trade union intervention by the masses to instal workers' control.

The alliance with the workers' states should not take the place of an alliance with the Latin American Revolution and this alliance must be forged in a living and vital way. Our comrades told Guevara that the Trotskyists unconditionally support the Cuban Revolution and the Cuban workers state. They also asked him to ensure that Trotskyists in Cuba had the right and legality to carry on their activities publically.

Guevara listened to them and discussed with them going over the public position of the Cuban Government. It was an exchange of opinions and judgements on the problems and perspectives of the Cuban Revolution. On the question of the situation of the Cuban Trotskyists he said that the measures taken were purely administrative. At the end of the interview Guevara personally accompanied our comrades as far as the door of the hotel to prevent another police attack against them. The parting was cordial. The interview with Guevara is evidence that the Cuban Revolution is not under the thumb of the stalinists and that it is moving on the way to socialism.

#### ALGERIAN PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT'S WARNING

The G.P.R.A. ( the Algerian Provisional Government) announced on November 30th that 117 Algerians had been killed by Europeans in Algiers and Oran in the riots. The Algerian Minister of Information, M. Mohammed Yazid, told a press conference in Tunis that the 'wild criminals' who killed, pillaged and raped Algerians in Oran and Algiers were wrong if they thought they could continue without the Algerians reacting.

If the French authorities took no measures to stop the murders, 'the rage of our people will fall implacably on those responsible,' he added. The Europeans 'Ultras' acted with the aim of preventing negotiations between the FLN and the French Government, he stated. "These fascists, these belated colonialists who attack liberal Jews and Europeans in Algeria and French democrats in France," he said, were in league with the French armed forces. 'We can factually say that the action of the O.A.S. has become a form of semi-official action by the French army in Algeria.'

#### APARTHEID IN SWAZILAND

Under a constitutional being contemplated in Swaziland, a British 'Protectorate' surrounded by the Republic of South Africa, a system virtually identical with the South African Bantustan policy would be instituted. Under it the only electoral role would be white, there would be no common role whatsoever. Africans would be represented only through their chief and his councillors. This move by the local British High Commission authorities is a good pointer to the real attitude of the British Tory Government towards apartheid.

BIG DEMONSTRATION IN BRADFORD

Some 150 people carrying posters took part in an anti colour bar demonstration through Bradford city Centre on Saturday 25th November. The bulk of the demonstrators were Young Socialists and students, many Pakistani workers and other trade unionists took part too. Another march is planned for December 2nd.

MOVES AGAINST MECCA LTD.

The Yorkshire Regional Committee of Young Socialists has cancelled a booking for a Mecca ballroom, the Locarno of Wakefield, because of the colour operated by that company at Bradford.

The Musicians' Union executive has unanimously decided to instruct its officials to take all action necessary to end the racial discrimination by Mecca Ltd. in the Locarno ballroom at Bradford.

STUDENTS TO BLACK JOBS AT HOUSE OF FRASER.

By a 24 to 15 majority the Scottish Union of Students National Council decided, on November 25th, to call upon students to black vacation employment at all House of Fraser stores. This action was taken after the firm had asked for 50 students as counter hands to cope with the Christmas rush. When 50 students were sent for interview - 42 white, 8 coloured - the white students were hired, the coloured students rejected. An official of U.S.D.A.W. has said that his union will bitterly oppose any colour bar by the firm or any other. He added that the affair would be investigated.

WELCOME TO NEW IMMIGRANTS - PART OF M.C.F. CAMPAIGN

Some 100 students, mainly from London University and Regent and Chiswick Polytechnics, met the latest contingent of new arrivals from the West Indies at Waterloo Station. This was part of a campaign by the Movement for Colonial Freedom against racial discrimination. The plan includes a mass protest march against the Immigration Bill on December 14th; the circulation of a million copies of a new leaflet opposing the Bill and a conference of representatives of those local authorities who have in their areas a considerable West Indian population.

PROTESTS, PICKETS AND AN INVESTIGATION

London University students have voted by 384 votes to 75 that the Immigration Bill should be rescinded. Four students handed a letter for the Prime Minister telling him of this result of a debate at the Students Union.

The Anti-Apartheid Movement is to picket the Dorchester Hotel on December 3rd where South African Foreign Minister, Eric Louw, is staying on his way back from New York. A poster parade is also planned.

An investigation is to be carried out by Birmingham Education Committee into the letting of school premises to organisations disseminating racialism. A Labour councillor report that, under the guise of a parent teachers association, the British National Party, one of the most vicious racist groups, has been holding Keep Britain White meetings.

TWO LETTERS

A letter from George Powe, Secretary of the Afro-Asian West Indian Union was published in Tribune, December 1st. In it he outlined the policy of the Afro-Asian West Indian Union and its approach to fighting racialism. The Nottingham Evening News has published a letter from the Chairman of the South Nottingham Federation of Young Socialists countering other correspondents who had written in support of the colour bar Bill.

FACTS AGAINST THE COLOUR BAR BILL

We hear a lot of talk about Britain being an overcrowded island and that this alone would be reason for some control of immigration to Britain. Even if we accepted this kind of argument, which we don't, and even if we disregarded the figures of emigration being much greater than immigration the boot would be on the other foot. The only way of comparing such movement, is not in absolute figures but by the numbers as a percentage of the total population. When we do this we find that, for 1960, the number of Britains going to Jamaica, as a percentage of the Jamaican population, is five times as high as the number of Jamaicans coming to Britain as a percentage of the British population.

Walter Holmes of the Daily Worker's column Workers Notebook, reproduced extracts from a recent speech by Thorez in which he attacked Trotsky. Repeating many of the old slanders (without bringing in accusations of being a police spy, etc., however) Thorez says "Contrary to the myths which have been put around, Trotsky never was a Leninist, nor a Bolshevik...." Perhaps Thorez would consider Lenin contributed to this 'myth' when he described Trotsky as '...perhaps the most capable man in the present C(entral) C(ommittee)...' of the Bolshevik Party. Or when Lenin and Trotsky were the joint Russian signatories to the 'Invitation to the First Congress of the Communist International. Perhaps Thorez himself is not blameless because, as reported in Isaac Deutscher's Prophet Unarmed, he...approved much in Trotsky's criticism of socialism in one country (page 444). What is of interest, however, is what motivates this attack. It is, in its distorted way, yet one more proof that the 22nd Congress far from closing the discussion about Stalinism, has laid the basis for a real discussion, which in its turn means facing up to the challenge of Trotskyism.

CHINESE ISSUE ANTI KHRUSHCHOV BOOKLET

On the occasion of the Seventeenth anniversary of Albania's liberation from the Italian occupation forces, the Chinese have issued a booklet of speeches by Albanian Communist Party leaders. These speeches include some by Hoxha in which Khrushchov is denounced as a 'revisionist.'

THE "POPULAIRE" TO CLOSE

The Populaire, paper of Mollet's Socialist Party, the S.F.I.O. which is still, incidentally, the official French section of the Second International, is to close down before the end of the year. The paper was founded in 1921, arising out of the split in the French Socialist Party when it joined the Third International. Leon Blum, who led the right wing split was its actual founder. The end of the paper is another sign of the increasing degeneration of the S.F.I.O. which has lost its most viable people to the United Socialist Party, formed by various groupings which could not stomach Mollet's close collaboration with De Gaulle.

NOTTINGHAM TRADE UNIONISTS TO LAUNCH BIG CAMPAIGN.

The Nottingham Trades Council has approved plans to launch its most ambitious campaign ever for recruitment and general propaganda. Sub-committees have gone into details of factory gate meetings, film shows, various social events, etc. The playwright Arnold Wesker is to speak at two meetings. Help is to come from the local Co-op in the form of free rooms for meetings and free window displays. The plans are to be discussed at branch level now and no doubt some branches will press for immediate action on them.

NOTTINGHAM TEACHERS BLOW TO RIGHT WING

The right wing of the National Union of Teachers suffered a major defeat when the Nottingham branch voted to support another candidate, John Archbold of Durham, rather than Oliver Barnett for the position of treasurer of the Union. Barnett who is from Nottingham has been one of the leading members of the caucus responsible for the sell-out on the wage claim which resulted in the threat of strike action being withdrawn. Owing to the method of financial support for national officers in the N.U.T. it will be difficult for Barnett to stand for the position of treasurer even if he is nominated by other branches. The decision was a very close one, a first vote gave a majority of one for Barnett, however a ballot was demanded and the decision reversed by 4 votes - 38 to 34. Archbold stands for a more vigorous policy in relation to wages.

POLICE HEAD PAY LEAGUE

The Guardian wage index for September, 1961 shows that the police, men and women, are top of the pay league and by a big margin too. In the index, which is compiled by two lecturers at the London School of Economics with the aid of the L.S.E. computer staff, expresses wages as a percentage of the 1948 figures. On this rating the police are 226.3% for men and 225.7% for women, as against the average for all categories of 187.2 and 186.5 respectively.

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

This will be produced separately from this Bulletin and sent to comrades.